



# Espinas y Flores

BULLETIN OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
*Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.*

Vol. X, No. 2

February 1975

PROGRAM: Succulent Arrangements - Lecture demonstration by Virginia Innis  
Mrs. Innis is currently Program Chairperson for the  
Southwest Council of Flower Judges, past President  
of the Floral Assn. and past Director of the Federated  
Garden Clubs of San Diego County.

Feb. 8th - 1:30 PM, Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

CACTUS OF THE MONTH : Lobivia and Related Genera

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH : Pelargonium

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MEMBERSHIP: The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is open to all persons  
interested in growing cacti, other succulents and exotic plants.

Dues: \$5.00 annually, due in December of each year.

Meetings: 2nd Saturday of each month, 1:30 PM. Board meets each Friday  
after general meeting, 7:30 PM, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

Deadline for March issue publications is February 15, 1975.

C. S. S. A. BIENNIAL CONVENTION  
 SAN DIEGO, MAY 12--16, 1975  
 BAHIA MOTOR HOTEL, Mission Bay

SUNDAY	PM	REGISTRATION . . . . .	\$ 10.00
MAY 11		GARDEN VISITS to local gardens in private cars	
	8 PM	Alfred LAU -- "Cactaceae of South America"	
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MONDAY	AM	REGISTRATION -- DELEGATES MEETING	
MAY 12	Noon	LUNCH on your own	
	PM	PROGRAMS: 1:30 Howard Scott GENTRY "Agaves"	
		2:30 Larry MITICH	
		3:30 Louise LIPPOLD	
	EVE	BANQUET, sponsors El Centro, Palomar, San Diego Clubs	
		Philip DOWNS "South African Succulents"	6.00
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TUESDAY	AM	ALL DAY TOUR of North County Nurseries by bus	5.50
MAY 13		or in private cars, Palomar hosting	
	Noon	LUNCH, box or other to be arranged	3.00
	EVE	DINNER on your own	
	EVE	Hernando Sanchez MEJORADA "Cactaceae of Mexico"	
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WED.		I.O.S. DAY, programs by American members	
MAY 14	AM	10:00 SYMPOSIUM	
		11:00 Edward ANDERSON	
	Noon	LUNCHEON on your own	
		1:30 Dr. Lyman BENSON	
		2:30 Dr. George LINDSAY	
		3:30 Business meeting, I.O.S. members	
	EVE	ALTERNATE PROGRAM: Joyce TATE "Uses of Cacti"	
		BANQUET sponsored by out-of-town clubs.	6.00
		(Suggested entertainment Michael DEAN, San Diego hypnotists)	
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THURS		ALL DAY BUS TRIP to Anza Borrego Desert State Park	6.50
MAY 15		BOX LUNCHEES	3.00
		ALTERNATE TRIPS to local points of interest	
		BALBOA PARK -- Museum of Man, Museum of	
		Natural History, Space Theater	
		SAN DIEGO -- Harbor Excursion, Old Town "Bazaar	
		del Mundo", San Diego Zoo, Wild Animal Park,	
		Pt. Loma Observation Point, Sea World,	
		Scripps Institute of Oceanography	
	EVE	DINNER on your own	
	EVE	Frank HORWOOD "African Succulents"	
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FRIDAY	AM	DELEGATES MEETING	
MAY 16	Noon	Luncheon on your own	
	PM	PROGRAMS: 1:30 Marlene RAIMAN	
		2:30 Dr. Leroy N. PHELPS	
		3:30 Madelyn LEE	
	EVE	BOAT RIDE on Bahia Bell to Catamaran Hotel on	
		Mission Bay, LUAU, and return by boat	8.50

CSSA BIENNIAL CONVENTION, MAY 12 to 16, 1975

BAHIA HOTEL, San Diego, CA  
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HOTEL RESERVATION--Send reservation and payment for first night to:

THE BAHIA MOTOR HOTEL (Ph. 714-488-0551)  
998 West Mission Bay Drive  
San Diego, CA 92109

A limited number of rooms have been booked by CSSA. It would be advisable to make reservations early and note it is for CSSA Convention.

RATES:     \$17.00 single           \$26.00 suites  
          21.00 double/twin       4.00 rollaway

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CONVENTION REGISTRATION--Send registration and fees to:

Pat MOONEY, Registrar (Ph. 714-427-6796)  
97 K Street  
Chula Vista, CA 92011

Day	Activity	No.	Cost
May 12, MON	Registration . . . . .		\$ 10.00
	Opening banquet . . . . .		6.00
May 13, TUE	North County bus tour . . .		5.50
	Box lunch, drinks . . . . .		3.00
May 14, WED	Banquet at Bahia . . . . .		6.00
May 15, THU	Bus to Anza Borrego Park .		6.50
	Box lunch . . . . .		3.00
May 16, FRI	Boat ride to Catamaran, Luau, and return . . . . .		8.50
	Total . . . . .		

1 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

2 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

3 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

CACTUS OF THE MONTH

Lobivia, Mediolobivia, Pseudolobivia & Soehrensia

George E. Radwin

Once again we find a complex of genera (or names, if you prefer) whose mutual boundaries are not clear, even to the most illustrious authorities. The above four names seem to represent four groups of species, all of which have globular to short-cylindrical bodies with tubercles or tuberculate ribs, and more or less stout and long spination. The day-blooming, funnel-shaped flowers all seem to have blooms in the white-yellow-orange-red color range, and these are all borne on more or less long, hairy stalks that arise from the sides or near the apex of the stem. There are small flower and fruit distinctions among the four, such as whether the fruit is dry or succulent, or the degree of hairiness of the flower stalk. Species assignable to the four seem to favor highland areas on the eastern slopes of the Andes, in Bolivia and northern Argentina.

An added confusion relates to the tendency of some workers (e.g. Cardenas) to combine Mediolobivia with Rebutia, a placement that Backeberg staunchly rejects. In addition, there is some evidence to indicate that Lobivia is rather closely related to Echinopsis. This comes in the form of the very popular "Paramount Hybrids" of the Johnson Nursery. In some cases, these are cited as Lobiviopsis varieties, a hybrid name for a hybridized cultivar. The crosses have combined the bright colors and longevity of Lobivia with the large bloom-size of Echinopsis, and in doing so have shown a substantial genetic compatibility between the two genera.

Mediolobivia has the smallest plants and the most brightly colored blooms. Lobivia, in common with Echinopsis, is most readily grown and is caespitose (pup-forming) almost to a fault. Pseudolobivia and Soehrensia are larger plants from as high as 3,000 meters altitude. According to Backeberg they are uncommon, even in their preferred habitat. This may account for the fact that in each genus there are a few that find their way into American gardens, whereas the others are virtually unheard of.

All species of these four genera thrive in loose, rich soil with good drainage and plentiful water in warm seasons. Almost all will do well outside in San Diego.

The following list includes only the more available species of each genus:

<u>Lobivia</u>	<u>Mediolobivia</u>	<u>Pseudolobivia</u>	<u>Soehrensia</u>
arachnacantha	ritteri	acanthoplegma	bruchii
aurea	pectinata	aurea	formosa
backebergii	pygmaea	kermesina	ingens
binghamiana	schmiedcheniana		
boliviensis	elegans		
cinnabarina			
densispina			
famatimensis			
hertrichiana			

Considering the fact that a species like Pseudolobivia kermesina has been assigned to Echinopsis, Pseudolobivia, and Soehrensia by different sources in the past 20 years, it is clear that even acknowledged authorities are at a loss as to the generic limits of these groups. Fortunately, we are not responsible for such weighty, botanical decisions; we must only "dig" them (ouch!). Let's see another good turn out of plants.

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH  
PELARGONIUM - L'Her  
Family -- Geraniaceae

Madelyn R. Lee

The name Pelargonium is derived from the Greek words 'pelargos' (stork) and 'gonos' (angle). The seed resembles the head and beak of a stork before the seed dries on the plant.

There are about two hundred species, most of which are not 'true' succulents. The local garden Geranium is a Pelargonium but, I think you will agree, it is more tenacious than succulent.

P. echinatum is probably the best known species in this area. It forms bushes up to four feet in diameter and has fairly large white, pink, or purple flowers. It can be grown outside in our climate and is very free flowering.

P. crassicaule is seldom more than eight inches tall and looks like it is made of fat, black, shiny cigars. The long stalked leaves have silver hairs and the flowers are white. The plant requires warmth in winter.

P. klinghardtense looks like a silver-grey fire hydrant. It has bluish lacerate leaves and white flowers.

P. carnosum and P. alterans also have thick silver-grey stems and attractive leaves.

P. gibbosum is sometimes called the 'Knotted Geranium' due to its swollen joints. It has a hairy grey-green leaf and unusual yellow flowers.

P. juttiae and P. lobatum have tubers or a caudex-like stem. The long stalked leaves are very hairy and attractive.

P. tetragonum is almost a vine. It is easy to grow as either a hanging plant or on a trellis. It has dainty, four angled stems and large pink-purple flowers.

Most Pelargoniums are from S. Africa. They are generally not difficult to grow if you remember they want to rest in our summer months and they grow and flower in our fall and winter months. They prefer very loose, rich soil and little or no water in summer. The more succulent plants require warmth in winter and more care in watering.

The seed is very interesting. It looks like a corkscrew with a tail on one end and a spear on the other. The 'corkscrew' responds to moisture and contracts and expands to drive the seed into the soil.

There seems to be a Pelargonium for every taste, from a bonsai to a hanging basket. They bring welcome color to the greenhouse or garden in the winter when most succulent plants are at rest.

CEREBRAL PALSY - by Martin Mooney

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Alice and Wilson Wells and the Loylands, Sophie and Oliver, who helped the Young Adults of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation with various projects, a plaque of appreciation was presented to our Society at the January general meeting.

In January, also, Alice Wells organized a sales table with donated plants, the proceeds to go to the Cerebral Palsy Foundation. It is due to people the caliber of the Wells and the Loylands, taking time out of their busy lives to assist others, that those less fortunate than we have a brighter future.

Alice says, if there are any members interested in helping with this worthwhile project, they would be more than welcome.

Dr. Corliss

During the past year I have enjoyed an interesting correspondence with Mr. R. H. Sieperda of Harlingen, Holland. It began with hemerocallis (daylilies) and turned to siberian iris and then to cactus. I recalled buying *rebutia senilis v. sieperdaiana* from Uebelmann; so I asked my new acquaintance if the plant had been named for him. His reply: "Indeed, my friend Mr. Buining has given this plant my name. By itself the original plant was self-sterile and the crossings now on the market are hybrids - of course yellow flowers." According to Marsden and Jackson ("Rebutia", pub. 1968 MacMillan) the plant was described as *rebutia sieperdaiana* by Buining in 1941. It was later changed to *rebutia marsoneri v. sieperdaiana* by Donald in 1954 and by Donald and Buining in 1965. It was listed as *rebutia senilis v. sieperdaiana* (Buining) by Backeberg. The description (Marsden) says that the flower may be self-sterile (as reported to me by Mr. Sieperda) and if this is in fact the case, it would favor inclusion as a variety of *rebutia marsoneri* rather than *rebutia senilis*. (No reason is given for this statement!) It just happens that from my own crossing in 1972, using *rebutia senilis v. sieperdaiana* as the pod parent, I have a tray full of lusty seedlings coming on.

Since *rebutia sieperdaiana* was named in 1941 it is obvious that Mr. Sieperda has been interested in cactus far longer than I have. He says that his collection in recent years consists largely of his own seedlings, grafted on ceroid stock. He says he lost most of his South American globular cacti to "chilenian rot" and that imported Brazilian cacti are difficult for him to establish. He does, however, have many of the smaller species, such as *sulcorebutia*, and is especially fond of *cochemeia*. Like most European cactophiles, he has long had an interest in epiphyllum hybrids and is now giving much attention to *echinopses* and their hybrids. He seeks a purple *echinopsis* hybrid which he feels is feasible - it is obvious he is not acquainted with some of the newer *echinopsis* hybrids of Harry Johnson and Frank Reinelt.

#### CEREUS-LY SPEAKING

We are all sorry to hear that Ruth Stanton is in Tri-City Hospital and Emily Parks is recuperating from an illness at her home. We wish you a speedy recovery.

And thanks again for those scrumptious refreshments, provided by the Regalement Committee: the Hatemans, Jean and Leta; with the help of Mary Biddle, Rose D'Attilio, Helen Hegyi, Audrey Johnson, Frances Johnson and Katherine MacDonald, and Ethel Standish.

And a reminder: if our treasurer does not have your 1975 dues by March, we shall miss your smiling face and you will miss our happy company.

Our society donated \$100.00 to the S.D. Botanical Garden Foundation, of which we are an affiliate member, to help share the cost for the new loudspeaker system to be installed in our meeting room.

Also, note your calendar there will be no Saturday meeting in May due to the CSSA Convention.

Found: One *Aloe rauhi*, left from our last meeting. President Mooney delegated Tony D'Attilio as babysitter. Will the parent please step forward?

Past President Joe Bibby is investigating possibilities to reopen the plant sales table under new management. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

Congratulations Perlso - our new Wagonmistress, but we still need someone to chair the Exhibit Committee, any volunteers?

GARDEN HINTS - by Members

This is a new column - intended to pass on planting methods and mixtures which various members have found to work well for them. The life of this column will depend upon contributions from the readers. I think it would be worthwhile to also include unfortunate experiences we all have had. Upon request, anonymity is assured.

Floyd Gable's plant mix for miniature aloes is:

2 parts humus  
1 part sand  
1 part soil

He continues: "A green thumb has never helped me, but dirt under my fingernails has produced good results."

Lee Phelps on how to make Agave pumila pup:

Take a sharp knife and stab the plant in three separate areas (price of plant, if available, is \$20.00). This, Lee says, is supposed to produce the desired results. But when questioned, he laughingly admits that he has not tried this method yet. (We are looking forward to hearing more from you on this subject - one way or the other).

GERANIACEAE

Geranium Family

Reed Pierce

Most of us have enjoyed Pelargoniums (Geraniums) in our yards. But how many know that the family has two genera with true succulents? The genus Pelargonium with 250 species, has about twenty-five succulent forms -- all native to Southern Africa. The succulent Pelargoniums vary from plants with long slender stems like Pelargonium tetragonia to a single short hemispherical stem, as in Pelargonium carnosum.

All twelve species of the genus Sarcocaulon are short, thick-stemmed succulents and confined to S.W. Africa. They tend to be leafless most of the year.

The two genera differ in their flowers. Pelargonium has irregular blossoms in clusters and usually spotted or striped with reddish. Whereas, Sarcocaulon blossoms are solitary and disc-shaped/regular and without any spotting on the petals. Both genera can have spines or be spineless.

Culture: Sarcocaulon should be grown in porous sandy soil and watered slightly only in winter while they are growing.

The less succulent Pelargoniums, such as Pelargonium gibbosum, will grow most of the year and will tolerate as much watering as a typical Zonal Pelargonium. Whereas the most succulent forms such as Pelargonium tetragonia are to be treated like Sarcocaulon.

Officers

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H. Warren Buckner, Dr. Philip G. Corliss and Walter R. Scott

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ACTIVITIES -- Perlso LEWIS  
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Winter Flowers - despite the frosts!

Audrey Johnson

Mo'her Nature recently gave me a sharp rap over the knuckles!  
"So - you think you're above the frost line", she seemed to say. "Well, we'll see about that"!! The unusually cold weather we experienced here in Escondido over the Holiday Season very soon showed me that heavy frosts travel much farther up the hillside than I had previously expected, and a number of my plants show distinct signs of wear and tear.

As usual, the cactus and succulent areas of my various gardens came out particularly well, I'm happy to say, and most of the plants are continuing merrily on their way. The main damage seems to have been done to the more delicate Kalanchoes planted in the ground - those in hanging baskets, happily, were unharmed, and are now getting ready to bloom. Most of the damage was done by the "black frosts" at the beginning of the cold spell, we found, whereas the later, more usual, white frosts did little harm. This Winter I have sometimes wished that I could cover up my plants cosily at night, as I have seen Ruth do in her smaller Carlsbad garden, but, with such a spread out area over the hillside, this is impossible for me to do, unfortunately.

Meanwhile, with African daisies covering one bank, our colorful ice plant on another, and the California poppies, which I planted last year, beginning to appear, there will certainly be no lack of flowers in my garden this Wintertime. After all, encouraged by our brilliant light and sunshine here in Escondido, and a little T.L.C. from myself, what self-respecting plant could fail to bloom and flourish against such a glorious backdrop of rolling hills!



**Augie Pfeiffer**  
**5163 E. Bedford Dr.**  
**San Diego, CA 92116**  
**Return Requested**